

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE LIQUIDATION OF ASSETS FROM THE POLISH-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, 9 years ago President Bush requested, and the Congress authorized, the creation of Enterprise Funds for Poland and Hungary, in order to spur economic reform and the growth of private enterprise in these countries.

The Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF) has succeeded in its mission, and is now prepared to return the funds it originally received from the U.S. government.

Because there are so many views inside and outside the government about what should happen to assets of the PAEF, and because the guidance provided by the Congress 9 years ago on the disposition of those assets was neither clear nor explicit, I believe the Congress should authorize, by statute, how the assets of the PAEF are distributed. It is important for Congress to make a decision on this matter because it will establish a precedent for the distribution of assets from other Enterprise Funds in the future.

The text of my August 10, 1998 letter to Secretary Albright and the Department of State's reply of September 11th follow:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RE-
LATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES,

Washington, DC, August 10, 1998.

Hon. MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,
Secretary of State, Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADELEINE: I write regarding any decision you may reach with respect to the distribution of assets resulting from the liquidation of assets of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF).

The SEED Act of 1989 does not give clear or explicit guidance on how assets from Enterprise Funds should be distributed, once these Funds are liquidated, and I believe Congress should be involved in a decision on how assets from them are distributed.

In particular, in the case of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund, valued at over \$250 million, I believe Congress should authorize by statute how assets from this Fund are distributed. I appreciate that the legislative process can be slow, but I believe a decision reached in this way will best represent a consensus that reflects the views of the entire U.S. government.

The consensus-building process is especially important because a decision on the Polish-American Enterprise Fund will establish a precedent for the distribution of assets from other Enterprise Funds in the future.

I appreciate your attention to this issue.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
*Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of August 10, 1998, to the Secretary, concerning the distribution of funds resulting from any liquidation of assets of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF). The Secretary shares your concerns about this important issue, and is aware how any decision reached about the PAEF could establish a precedent for the future distribution of assets from other Enterprise funds.

As you well know, the fact that the PAEF has been so successful poses some unique problems when the issue of its dissolution is raised. Due to the wide interest in the Fund, a number of varied proposals have been given to the Administration regarding how reflow funds should be handled. Administration officials have been consulting with key members of the Congress and their staff (including those of your own), the PAEF Board of Directors, the Polish government and the Polish-American community, to arrive at a satisfactory solution. While a formula acceptable to all concerned has not yet been achieved, we have and will continue to consult with members and staff of the House International Relations Committee as part of this process.

We hope that this information has been helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE IS IN CRISIS DUE TO LABOR SHORTAGE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress from the San Joaquin Valley of California, I am proud to represent the two largest agricultural producing counties in the United States. Currently, a severe shortage of labor is raising concern over the economic future of the agriculture community throughout California. Agricultural production is nearly a \$25 billion industry in the State, and California has the largest agricultural economy in the Nation. Right now, farmers are competing for the same scarce labor force as the raisin, table and wine grape harvest is entering its peak and tree fruit growers are also harvesting in California. Simultaneously, apple farmers are beginning to pick their fruit in the State of Washington and are in need of labor. California has not seen a labor shortage of this magnitude since World War II.

The agricultural community has worked with numerous San Joaquin Valley Social Services Departments and Employment Development Departments to provide needed labor from individuals who are unemployed or entering the workforce after receiving welfare. Such actions

have failed to supply adequate labor for harvest.

The agricultural labor situation can be alleviated through action by the Federal Government. Under a reformed agricultural worker program, substantial opportunities will be given to foreign workers who can often earn significantly more in the United States than in their own country. Such reform reduces illegal immigration by creating a streamlined process to temporarily legalize individuals who choose to work in the agricultural sector of the United States.

I am working to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act, authored by Senator GORDON SMITH (R-OR), in the final conference language of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations measure. The act was approved as an amendment to S. 2260, the Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations bill. It passed by a bipartisan vote of 68-31 in the Senate. Related House legislation did not contain the agricultural worker provision. The Senate measure establishes a national registry within the Department of Labor to track agricultural job seekers. Employers are required to first hire domestic workers from the registry and are able to hire foreign workers if domestic workers are not available. Housing or a housing allowance must be provided by growers, and the prevailing wage rate must be paid. The prevailing wage rate is the mid-point of all wages earned, and it is always higher than the minimum wage.

On behalf of the farmers in the San Joaquin Valley in California, I urge the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary conferees to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act in the final bill. I also strongly encourage all Members of the House to support its passage. A stable, reliable and affordable food supply is dependent upon congressional approval of this measure.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BELLEVUE CITY SCHOOL DIS- TRICT ON BEING SELECTED AS ONE OF "OHIO'S BEST PRAC- TICES"

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding educational program from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Today, the Bellevue City School District is receiving recognition for its excellence in education by being named as one of "Ohio's Best Practices."

Mr. Speaker, Ohio's BEST, which stands for Building Excellent Schools for Today & the 21st Century, is an education partnership that seeks to identify and celebrate exemplary grassroots educational programs that have

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